

REMARKS

This paper is submitted in response to the Office action mailed on June 6, 2007. This paper amends claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 12, 16, 21-23 and 31-33, cancels claims 8, 9, 26 and 27 without prejudice or disclaimer, and adds claim 34. Accordingly, after entry of this Amendment and Response, claims 1, 2, 5-7, 10-16, 19-23 and 28-34 will be pending.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office action rejects claims 1-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,732,400 to Mandler et al. (Mandler) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,405,191 to Bhatt et al. (Bhatt). The Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot with respect to cancelled claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 17, 18 and 24-27, and respectfully traverses the rejection with respect to the remaining claims.

Each of independent claims 1, 16 and 22 is amended to clarify the claimed subject matter. The Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claim language more clearly sets forth the differences over both of the applied references.

In particular, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “providing a registry service including a plurality of service interfaces” and “registering a plurality of second e-business entities with the service interfaces by subscriptions that include information regarding the respective second e-business entities.” Neither Mandler nor Bhatt discloses or suggest these features.

Mandler discloses a system in which buyers (first entities) are registered with a financial clearinghouse to facilitate transactions with sellers (second e-business entities). The sellers may rely on information provided directly from the clearinghouse or via a broker (intermediary) to determine whether or not to complete a transaction with a buyer registered with the clearinghouse. Nowhere does Mandler disclose a registry including a plurality of service interfaces. Further, according to Mandler, only the buyers (first entities for whom a message is sent to plural sellers) are registered with the clearinghouse, not the sellers (second e-business entities who receive multicast messages from buyers).

Bhatt does not remedy such deficiencies of Mandler. Although the publish-and-subscribe system of Bhatt may arguably be employed in the system of Mandler, doing so would not result in a registry service including a plurality of service interfaces with which the sellers register. On the contrary, Bhatt discloses only a relational database to which subscribers to the publish-and-subscribe system send rules that govern which messages they will receive. According to Bhatt, subscribers only subscribe/register with the publish-and-subscribe system as a whole, not with particular service interfaces of a registry service.

The Applicant wishes to point out that the Office action fails to specifically identify the alleged “interface service,” let alone a registry service including a plurality of service interfaces. As further discussed below, independent claim 22 recited “a plurality of subscription interfaces” prior to this Amendment. However, the Office action did not specifically address this aspect of the claims.

As recited in claim 1, because the second e-business entities can register with particular service interfaces of a registry service, the method involves “querying the service interfaces and accessing one of the service interfaces based on content of the message” and “querying the accessed service interface.” These features are absent from the disclosures of both Mandler and Bhatt.

As further recited in claim 1, the method involves “multicasting the message to at least one of the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface based on the information included in the respective subscriptions.” These features are also absent from the disclosures of both Mandler and Bhatt.

Bhatt’s two-tier evaluation process for incoming messages involves determining subscription rules that cannot possibly apply to the message and then determining which subscribers are to receive the message, based on rules that can apply to the message. Thus, Bhatt discloses querying the entire relational database of rules for all subscribers and then applying the rules that can be applied. Bhatt does not remotely contemplate accessing one of a plurality of service interfaces based on message content and then multicasting based on subscription information of the second e-business entities registered with the accessed service interface.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that any permissible combination of Mandler and Bhatt would not result in the features recited in independent claim 1. Independent claim 16 recites similar features as those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Thus, any permissible combination of Mandler and Bhatt would not also result in the features recited in independent claim 16.

Independent claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, “making available a plurality of subscription services through a plurality of subscription interfaces” and “arranging for e-business entities to selectively subscribe to one or more of the subscription services through the respective service interfaces” each of which “includes information regarding the respective e-business entities.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, neither Mandler nor Bhatt discloses or suggest these features.

As recited in claim 22, because the second e-business entities can register with particular service interfaces of a registry service, the method involves “determining at least one of the subscription services to associate with the message based on content of the message” and “ascertaining the e-business entities that have subscribed to the at least one

subscription service associated with the message.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, such features are absent from the disclosures of both Mandler and Bhatt.

As further recited in claim 22, the method involves “multicasting the message to at least one of the ascertained e-business entities based on the information included in the respective subscriptions.” As discussed above with respect to claim 1, such features are also absent from the disclosures of both Mandler and Bhatt.

Therefore, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 16 and 22 are patentable over Mandler and Bhatt. Dependent claims 2, 5-7, 10-15, 19-21, 23 and 28-33 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of independent claims 1, 16 and 22 from which they respectively depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

In particular, the Applicant respectfully submits that the current rejection of dependent claims 2, 21 and 23 improperly relies on the theory of inherency. The Office action asserts that “an expiration of time is an inherent aspect of publish/subscribe system and method” without providing any basis in fact or technical reasoning to reasonable support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily follows from the teachings of the applied art. The assertion is merely set forth by the Office action as a conclusion.

Moreover, the assertion itself does not address the specific language of the claims. As such, the Office action improperly distills the language of these claims to a “gist.” See MPEP § 2141.02(II).

Similarly, the current rejection of dependent claim 6 improperly relies on the theory of inherency. The Office action asserts that “an inherent part of the system is that the seller can [then] either continue to process the RFQ using the broker, OR if so inclined, initiate communication with the buyer directly.” However, no basis in fact or technical reasoning to reasonable support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily follows from the teachings of the applied art. The Applicant respectfully points out that Mandler discloses only processing the RFQ via the clearinghouse OR via the clearinghouse and the broker. Thus, the asserted inherent characteristic is directly opposite to the teachings of Mandler - certainly not inherent.

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Mandler and Bhatt is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

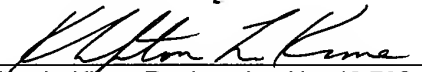
The Applicant thanks the Examiner for his thorough review of the application. The Applicant respectfully submits the present application, as amended, is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability as soon as practicable.

The Applicant believes no fees or petitions are due with this filing. However, should any such fees or petitions be required, please consider this a request therefor and authorization to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1415 as necessary.

If the Examiner should require any additional information or amendment, please contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated: September 6, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Klifton L. Kime", is written over a horizontal line.

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